

103D CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 539

To encourage the President to establish an advisory commission on tribally controlled institutions of higher learning.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 21, 1994

Mr. SKEEN (for himself, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. WILLIAMS, Mr. RICHARDSON, Ms. ENGLISH of Arizona, Mr. FAZIO, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. SWIFT, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. DELLUMS, Mr. OWENS, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. BEREUTER, Mrs. MEYERS of Kansas, Mr. TEJEDA, Mr. PASTOR, and Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

RESOLUTION

To encourage the President to establish an advisory commission on tribally controlled institutions of higher learning.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

3 The House of Representatives finds the following:

4 (1) The Federal Government has a special trust
5 relationship and a fiduciary duty to American Indi-
6 ans and the Federal Government's Indian education
7 policies have progressed to a point where Indian

1 tribes establish, control, and administer educational
2 institutions on or near Indian reservations.

3 (2) There currently exist 29 tribally operated
4 post-secondary institutions serving over 300 tribes
5 nationwide and over 16,000 Indian students in 13
6 States including Arizona, California, Kansas, Michi-
7 gan, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, North Da-
8 kota, South Dakota, Washington, Wisconsin, Iowa,
9 and Nebraska.

10 (3) Tribally controlled and administered post-
11 secondary institutions promote tribal sovereignty
12 and self-determination and promotes individual aca-
13 demic achievement in culturally sensitive environ-
14 ments.

15 (4) Despite the overall improvement of edu-
16 cational opportunities for American Indians within
17 the last 20 years, tribally operated post-secondary
18 institutions remain largely underfunded and Amer-
19 ican Indians continue to experience the lowest over-
20 all college attendance rate in the United States.

21 (5) The efforts of tribally operated post-second-
22 ary colleges to secure continuing and sufficient fund-
23 ing, staff and educational resources which are vital
24 to a successful academic institution have been frus-
25 trated by the lack of Federal assistance in promot-

1 ing the National Education Goals for American Indi-
2 ans and the lack of awareness of the successful con-
3 tributions of Tribal colleges to tribal communities
4 and tribal members.

5 (6) The participation in federally sponsored
6 programs by historically black colleges and univer-
7 sities has been promoted by an Executive order since
8 the Carter Administration and that order has been
9 reaffirmed unconditionally by each subsequent ad-
10 ministration. The Hispanic community has also had
11 a similar Executive order for several years. The Na-
12 tion's 29 tribally controlled institutions of higher
13 learning have been seeking a similar order.

14 (7) An Executive order would require no appro-
15 priation, but would promote the awareness by the
16 Federal departments of the fact that there exist fully
17 accredited tribally controlled institutions of higher
18 learning among the postsecondary educational insti-
19 tutions in this Nation.

20 (8) The tribally controlled institutions of higher
21 learning are not included in many department's de-
22 fined program eligibility criteria due solely to the
23 fact that most departments remain unaware of the
24 existence and tremendous successes of the institu-
25 tions.

1 (9) Due to the minuscule proportion of the pop-
2 ulation which American Indians comprise, they re-
3 main the last minority community which does not
4 benefit from this unique program, and efforts to in-
5 clude them within the executive branch have been
6 overshadowed by issues which confront larger demo-
7 graphic sectors. A legislative resolution to this defi-
8 ciency would ensure that this compelling inequity is
9 addressed expeditiously.

10 **SEC. 2. PRESIDENTIAL ACTION REQUIRED.**

11 (a) ACTION REQUIRED.—The President is urged to
12 issue an Executive order fostering the advancement of the
13 National Education Goals for American Indians, promot-
14 ing Federal assistance for tribally controlled and operated
15 post-secondary institutions, and establishing an advisory
16 commission on tribally controlled institutions of higher
17 learning.

18 (b) FUNCTIONS OF COMMISSION.—Any commission
19 established pursuant to subsection (a) should be respon-
20 sible for the development and implementation of policies
21 and programs designed to achieve an increase in the par-
22 ticipation by tribally controlled institutions of higher
23 learning in federally-sponsored programs.

24 (c) MEMBERSHIP OF COMMISSION.—Any Commis-
25 sion established pursuant to subsection (a) should be com-

1 posed of members appointed by the President, but should
2 include representatives of tribally-controlled institutions of
3 higher learning, participating Federal departments, and
4 agencies, other institutions of higher education and enti-
5 ties from the private sector, and elected officials.

